



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/429
13 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose the text of a letter from His Excellency Mr. Karolos Papoulias, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, addressed to Your Excellency, in your capacity as President of the Security Council.

I kindly request that the letter of Mr. Karolos Papoulias be brought to the attention of the members of the Council.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adamantios Th. VASSILAXIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 April 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Greece addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter addressed to you on 11 April 1994 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, I would like to draw the attention of the Security Council member States to the following:

1. The Greek Government categorically rejects the unsubstantiated allegations and unfounded charges put forward in haste by the Albanian Government against my country, without evidence or a thorough investigation of the matter.
2. The Greek Government has expressed its sorrow for the criminal incident mentioned in the letter of the Albanian Foreign Minister and is investigating the various aspects of it. From the very beginning, the Greek Government has communicated to the Albanian side its willingness and readiness to contribute so that the matter may be handled in cooperation by the authorities of the two countries.
3. However, the Albanian Government has evaded to respond and the Albanian Police not only did not establish contact with the respective Greek authorities, but it also has so far failed to provide any useful information or objective fact which could be contributory for the clarification of the case.
4. The haste of the Albanian Government to blame, in high tones, the Greek Government, raises questions regarding its underlying intentions. All the more so because it is about an incident which has taken place inside Albanian territory under uncontrolled conditions and without the capability of verifying the real conditions of the planning and carrying-out of this operation.
5. It should be noted that our questions concerning the real motives behind the Albanian reaction are strengthened by the fact that the Albanian Government considered it appropriate to exploit the event making reference to matters which have no relation to the concrete incident, i.e. the situation between Greece and FYROM or the problem of Kosovo.
6. The Greek Government expected that the Albanian side would have displayed the required responsibility so that this sad incident would not suspend the development of the normal bilateral relations between the two countries. Instead, the Albanian Government escalated the tension, which it artificially created and expelled the Greek Consul General in Argyrokastró; this act, as the Albanian Foreign Minister himself acknowledged, is not linked with the actual incident but merely "coincided" in timing. It should also be underlined that the Albanian Foreign Minister has not yet responded to the conciliatory proposal of his Greek counterpart to meet with him promptly for the diffusion of the crisis.
7. Greece, with a long and consistent tradition of respect for Human Rights and observance of the Principles of Law, is unshakably committed to avoiding the

use of force and unequivocally condemns any terrorist action wherever it is derived from.

8. On the other hand, in the spirit of its consistent policy for the safeguard of peace and stability in the region, Greece has repeatedly declared that the development of friendly and close relations of good neighbourliness with Albania (country which only recently came out from a long period of cruel dictatorship and long-year practice of violations of human rights and individual freedoms), constitutes a primary goal and substantial priority of Greek foreign policy, within the framework of mutual respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and existing borders of the two countries, as well as of the safeguard of the rights and prosperity of the Greek minority in Albania.

9. On the contrary, the Albanian Government, putting forward at various times excuses relating to domestic affairs, in most cases - has evaded so far to respond to this constructive attitude of the Greek side and refuses to cooperate in sectors of common interest, such as the frequent cases of violations of the rights of the Greek minority, or the issue of the hundreds of thousands of illegal Albanian immigrants in Greece, who have caused very serious social problems in my country; equally, the frequent raids of armed bandit gangs from Albania continuously concern the Greek authorities and terrify the Greek population, more specifically in the border areas.

10. In view of the above, the Greek Government hopes that the Security Council member States shall have the will to urge the Government of Albania to respect its international obligations concerning the Greek minority and display positive political will, as Greece does, to promote fruitful cooperation between the two countries for the safeguard of good-neighbourly relations and the consolidation of security and peace in the broader region of the Balkans.

(Signed) Karolos PAPOULIAS
